

**Amendments To The Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a plurality of serpentine bands, each serpentine band having alternating peak regions and trough regions and extending about substantially the entire circumference of the stent, at least one of the serpentine bands having a spline extending therefrom toward a serpentine band adjacent thereto, the spline and adjacent band separated by a gap, serpentine bands which are adjacent one another connected one to the other.

Claim 2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the spline extends toward a reciprocating spline extending from a serpentine band adjacent thereto, serpentine bands which are adjacent one another connected one to the other.

Claim 3. (Original) The stent of claim 2 wherein the spline extends from a peak region and the reciprocating spline extends from a trough region.

Claim 4. (Original) The stent of claim 3 wherein splines extend from a plurality of peak regions on one of the serpentine bands toward reciprocating splines extending from trough regions on a serpentine band adjacent thereto.

Claim 5. (Original) The stent of claim 4 wherein splines extend from peak regions on more than one serpentine band, each spline extending toward a reciprocating spline extending from a trough region on an adjacent serpentine band.

Claim 6. (Original) The stent of claim 3 wherein every serpentine band has at least one spline or reciprocating spline extending therefrom.

Claim 7. (Original) The stent of claim 3 wherein the serpentine bands comprise first serpentine bands and second serpentine bands, the first serpentine bands of a first wavelength and amplitude and the second serpentine bands of a second wavelength and amplitude less than the first wavelength and amplitude, the first and second serpentine bands alternating with one another along the length of the stent.

Claim 8. (Original) The stent of claim 7 wherein first and second serpentine bands which are adjacent one another are connected one to the other by one or more longitudinal connector.

Claim 9. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein each longitudinal connector extends from a peak region on a first serpentine band to a trough region on a second serpentine band adjacent to the first serpentine band.

Claim 10. (Original) The stent of claim 9 wherein the splines extend from sides of peak regions and the reciprocating splines extend from sides of trough regions.

Claim 11. (Original) The stent of claim 2 wherein in an expanded configuration each spline contacts a trough region and each reciprocating spline contacts a peak region.

Claim 12. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein a plurality of splines are in substantial longitudinal alignment with one another and a plurality of reciprocating splines are in substantial longitudinal alignment with one another.

Claim 13. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the spline extends from a peak region to a trough region.

Claim 14. (Original) The stent of claim 13 wherein splines extend from a plurality of peak regions on one of the serpentine bands toward trough regions on a serpentine band adjacent thereto.

Claim 15. (Original) The stent of claim 13 wherein splines extend from peak regions one more than one serpentine band, each spline extending toward a trough region on an adjacent serpentine band.

Claim 16. (Original) The stent of claim 15 wherein reciprocating splines extend from trough regions on at least some of the serpentine bands toward peak regions on adjacent serpentine bands.

Claim 17. (Original) The stent of claim 16 wherein every serpentine band has at least one spline or reciprocating spline extending therefrom.

Claim 18. (Original) The stent of claim 16 wherein the serpentine bands comprise first serpentine bands and second serpentine bands, the first serpentine bands of a first wavelength and amplitude and the second serpentine bands of a second wavelength and amplitude less than the first wavelength and amplitude, the first and second serpentine bands alternating with one another along the length of the stent.

Claim 19. (Original) The stent of claim 18 wherein first and second serpentine bands which are adjacent one another are connected one to the other by one or more longitudinal connectors.

Claim 20. (Original) The stent of claim 19 wherein each longitudinal connector extends from a peak region on a first serpentine band to a trough region on a second serpentine band adjacent to the first serpentine band.

Claim 21. (Original) The stent of claim 20 wherein the splines extend from sides of peak regions and the reciprocating splines extend from sides of trough regions.

Claim 22. (Original) The stent of claim 11 wherein in an expanded configuration each spline contacts a trough region and each reciprocating spline contacts a peak region.

Claim 23. (Original) The stent of claim 18 wherein a plurality of splines are in substantial longitudinal alignment with one another and a plurality of reciprocating splines are in substantial longitudinal alignment with one another.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A stent ~~with at least one segmented spine, the stent~~ comprising a plurality of serpentine bands which extend substantially about the entire circumference of the stent, each serpentine band having a plurality of peak regions and a plurality of trough regions, at least some of the peak regions having splines extending therefrom toward trough regions adjacent thereto, each spline terminating short of the trough toward which it extends to form a gap between the spline and the trough, a plurality of splines being aligned in a longitudinal direction ~~the segmented spine formed of a plurality of peak regions with splines extending therefrom and trough regions longitudinally adjacent the splines, the segmented, the segmented spine extending in a substantially longitudinal direction.~~

Claim 25. (Original) The stent of claim 24 wherein the segmented spine extends from one end of the stent to the other end of the stent.

Claim 26. (Original) The stent of claim 24 wherein serpentine bands which are adjacent one another are connected one to the other via a plurality of longitudinal connectors.

Claim 27. (Original) The stent of claim 26 wherein one or more longitudinal connectors form part of the segmented spine.

Claim 28. (New) The stent of claim 24 wherein at least some of the splines are adjacent to reciprocating splines, splines and reciprocating splines which are adjacent one another being separated by a gap and extending from peaks and troughs which face one another.

Claim 29. (New) The stent of claim 2 wherein splines and reciprocating splines which are adjacent thereto are separated one from the other by a gap.